

The invention relates to a method for the protected management of a unit counter in an electrically erasable and programmable memory, according to which the number of units consumed by users is recorded by means of a counter, consisting in breaking down the unit counter into at least two memory areas (A, B), a first area (A) in which one bit is blown per unit consumed and a second area (B) in which the value corresponding to the total units consumed is stored, the second area being updated only when the number of units consumed exceeds or attains the number of not blown bits in the first area.

Figure 2A